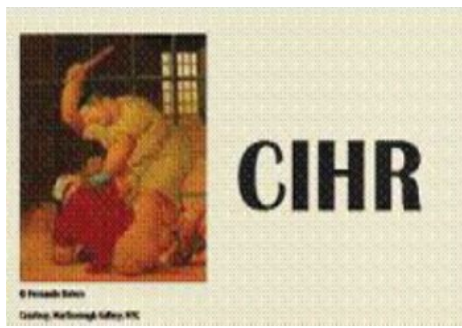


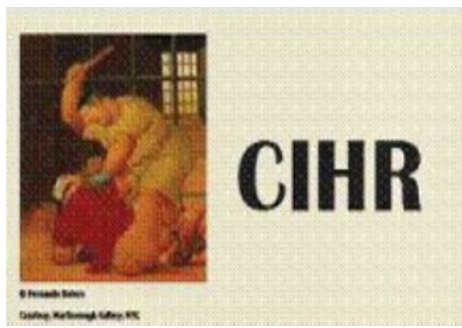
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MONTH & YEAR	BRIEF STATEMENT	LINKS
JANUARY 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Report to the Secretary-General: Too Important to Fail—Addressing the Humanitarian Finance Gap</u>
FEBRUARY 2016	<p>Human rights are fast becoming a casualty in the drive to wipe out fanatical groups like ISIS and Boko Haram. That was grim warning from the head of Amnesty International on Tuesday as the watchdog group released its annual report on the state of human rights around the world.</p> <p>“What I’ve said to the Cuban government is, if . . . we’re seeing some progress in the liberty and freedom and possibilities of ordinary Cubans, I’d love to use a visit as a way of highlighting that progress,” Obama told Yahoo! News. “If we’re going backwards, then there’s not much reason for me to be there.”</p> <p>Britain is setting a dangerous precedent by undermining human rights and contributing to a worldwide “culture of impunity”, Amnesty International has said in its annual report on the state of human rights.</p> <p>Amnesty International says the United Nations has systematically failed to uphold human rights and international</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Amnesty International Annual Report: Human Rights Under Attack More Than Ever</u> • <u>Human rights are on the ropes in Cuba, but Obama is eager to visit</u> • <u>UK downgrading of human rights sets dangerous precedent, says Amnesty</u> • <u>Amnesty International condemns global</u>



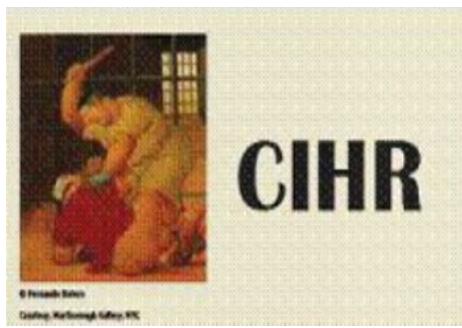
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	<p>law – and the Syrian conflict is one example of the human consequences.</p> <p>The Faculty of Law in the University of Oxford, already the largest law school in the UK, has announced the creation of a dedicated institute for the study of human rights law.</p> <p>The Mexican Supreme Court issued a judgment on September 20, 2013 that resolved a “conflict between jurisdictions” (<i>contradicción de tesis</i>) and led to compliance with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights’ judgment in the <i>Radilla Pacheco</i> case. This judgment transformed human rights into the centerpiece of the Mexican legal order and led to the United Nations awarding the Mexican Supreme Court its UN Prize in the field of Human Rights on December 10, 2013 for “promoting human rights through its interpretation and enforcement of Mexico’s constitution and its obligations under international law.”</p> <p>United Nations (United States) (AFP) - The United Nations on Wednesday carried out its first humanitarian airdrop in Syria to reach thousands of people facing severe food shortages in a city besieged by Islamic State jihadists.</p> <p>Although the succession of violence and suffering has sometimes prevented countries in the African Great Lakes from achieving their potential, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today that the hard-working people must be given more opportunities to use their</p>	<p><u>‘wholesale assault’ on human rights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>New dedicated institute for the study of human rights law</u> • <u>Status of Human Rights Treaties In Mexican Domestic Law</u> • <u>UN carries out first humanitarian airdrop in Syria</u> • <u>Ban highlights private-sector investment for potential to ‘transform’ Africa’s Great Lakes region</u>
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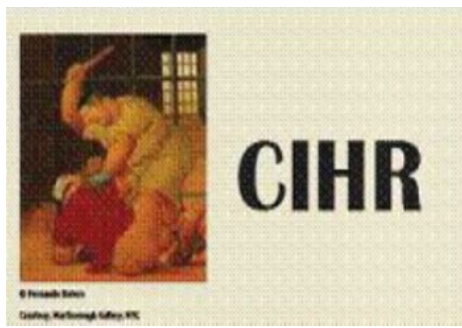
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	<p>abundant natural resources in order to address the root causes of conflict and ultimately transform the region</p> <p>Continuing efforts to bolster the international response to Zika, World Health Organization (<u>WHO</u>) Director-General Margaret Chan arrived today in the northeast of Brazil to visit the area most affected by neurological disorders suspected of being linked to the virus, including microcephaly in babies.</p> <p>Europe is backing into an even greater refugee crisis by tightening border restrictions on the hundreds of thousands fleeing conflicts elsewhere, the head of the United Nations refugee agency has said on a visit to the island of Lesbos in Greece.</p> <p>While welcoming the recent announcement of a cessation of hostilities in Syria as a “long-awaited signal of hope,” the top United Nations humanitarian official today echoed the calls of the world body and the international community at large for the parties involved to work towards a more durable ceasefire and facilitate conditions for increased protection and humanitarian aid.</p> <p>Many of Regina's new Syrian refugees are beginning to feel at home in the Queen City. The amount of time it takes refugees to feel at home in a new country depends on how quickly they feel welcomed in their new communities, according to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>In Brazil, UN health chief calls for better coordination in fight against Zika</u> ● <u>Balkans border closures cause chaos as refugees find ‘too few places’ to go, UN agency chief warns</u> ● <u>‘Everyone is losing’ in the Syrian conflict, UN relief chief tells Security Council</u> ● <u>Open Door Society says Syrian refugees settling well in Regina</u>
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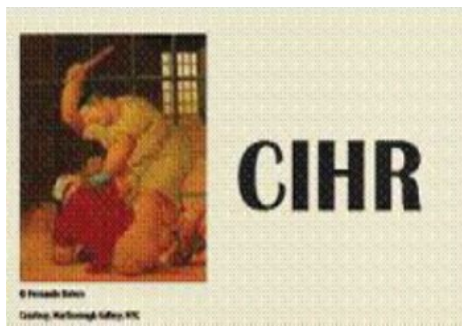
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	<p>Getachew Woldeyesus from the Regina Open Door Society</p> <p>UNHCR is releasing the findings of its surveys of Afghan and Syrian refugees who have arrived in Greece during January 2016. These findings are part of an ongoing study to learn more about who these refugees are, where they come from, why they are fleeing and what their particular protection needs are, so that Greek authorities, UNHCR and other partners can best support them, especially those with specific needs, such as women-headed households and unaccompanied or separated children.</p> <p>Millions of Libyans in need of urgent medical supplies and food provisions, says UN official</p> <p>Syria's government on Tuesday accepted a proposed U.S.-Russian cease-fire that is to go into effect later this week, but reserved the right to respond to any violations of the truce. The main opposition and rebel umbrella group approved the deal but set its own conditions.</p> <p>The worsening of tidal flooding in American coastal communities is largely a consequence of greenhouse gases from human activity, and the problem will grow far worse in coming decades, scientists reported Monday.</p> <p>“The U.N. humanitarian chief warned Tuesday that a "humanitarian catastrophe" is unfolding in Yemen, exacerbated by increasing restrictions on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>UNHCR Survey finds Afghan and Syrian refugees arriving to Greece are fleeing conflict and violence</u> ● <u>Humanitarian crisis unfolds in Libya as security dilemma persists</u> ● <u>Proposed Truce Accepted by Syrian Government, Opposition</u> ● <u>Seas Are Rising at Fastest Rate in Last 28 Centuries</u> ● <u>UN says a 'humanitarian catastrophe' is unfolding in Yemen</u>
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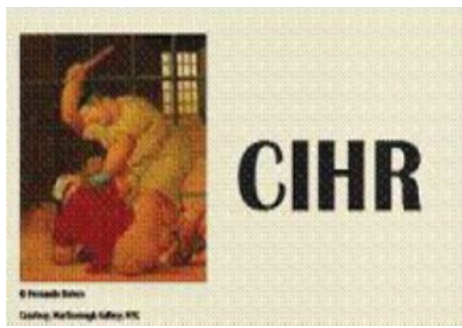
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	<p>efforts to respond to the staggering needs of millions of people including the diversion of a U.N. aid ship by Saudi-led coalition forces.”</p> <p>“Boutros Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian diplomat who led the United Nations in a chaotic 1990s tenure that began with hopes for peace after the Cold War, but failed to cope with genocide in Rwanda and Bosnia and ended in angry recriminations with Washington, died on Tuesday in an Egyptian hospital.”</p> <p>“The Pentagon has evidence that the Chinese military has deployed surface-to-air missiles on a disputed island in the South China Sea, a United States official has said.”</p> <p>“Last week Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, tabled proposals which the government hopes will form the basis of the UK’s renegotiated relationship with the European Union.”</p> <p>“Hundreds of women and girls raped during <u>Kenya’s 2007-2008</u> post-election violence struggle with devastating physical and psychological health conditions, poverty, and social exclusion, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The Kenyan government has failed to provide basic assistance and redress for the rape survivors.”</p> <p>In September 2015 when President Obama made the <u>controversial decision</u> to call for 10,000 Syrian refugees to be resettled in the United States in 2016, Mayor de Blasio was quick to jump into</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Former U.N. Secretary General, Dies at 93</u> ● <u>China Deployed Missiles on Disputed Island, U.S. Says</u> ● <u>The crucial missing part of Cameron's EU deal</u> ● <u>Kenya: Unending Toll for Rape Survivors; Provide Reparations, Justice for Post-Election Violence Victims</u> ● <u>Is New York City Ready for Syrian Refugees?</u>
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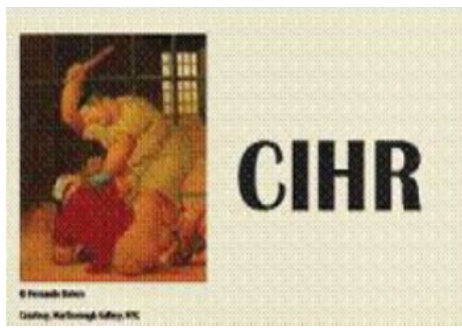
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	<p>the fray. Shortly after the announcement, de Blasio was one of 18 mayors to sign a <u>petition</u> encouraging Obama to accept even more refugees.</p> <p>“The EU is now offering €3bn, along with a “visa-free travel” promise to Turkish citizens, and even the resumption of membership talks in return for the “globalisation” of Turkey’s police state techniques, which will be used not just against internal opposition, but whomever is perceived to be a threat to Europe’s stability.”</p> <p>“On February 10, the ruler of Dubai announced a new Emirati cabinet that includes eight new ministers with an average age of 38. The youngest appointee, appropriately heading the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is just 22. A few weeks earlier, the 35-year-old emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, named a fellow member of Generation Y to lead the nation’s foreign ministry—Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, who is also just 35. The face of Gulf leadership is changing, and it is getting decidedly younger.”</p> <p>“Thousands of people trapped in the besieged town of Yarmouk received critical aid for the first time in nine months.”</p> <p>“The pledge was put forward by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and three other groups asking presidential candidates to agree to “six clear steps that will put Fifa on the road to ensuring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Syrian refugees in Turkey are pawns in a geopolitical game</u> • <u>The Next Generation of Gulf Leaders</u> • <u>Humanitarian Aid Reaches Palestinian Refugees Trapped in Syria</u> • <u>Fifa presidential candidate Sheikh Salman signs human rights pledge</u>
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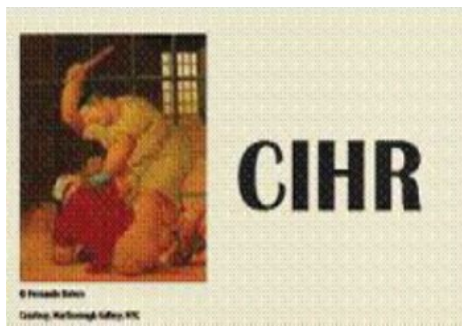
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	<p>its events do not cause or contribute to human rights abuses and corruption.”</p> <p>“Hacking of computers, networks and smartphones in the UK or abroad by GCHQ staff does not breach human rights, a security tribunal has ruled.”</p> <p>“The UN human rights investigator for Gaza and the West Bank have called on Israel to investigate what he called excessive force used by Israeli security against Palestinians”</p> <p>“Indonesia’s government should defend the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and publicly condemn officials’ grossly discriminatory remarks, Human Rights Watch said today in a letter to President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo.”</p> <p>“There are now 50,000 Syrian refugees on the move towards the Turkish border and at number could reach 1.5 million if the city of Aleppo is "completely bombed out", Turkey's Minister for EU Affairs Volkan Bozkir said on Thursday.</p> <p>“Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has threatened to send the millions of refugees in Turkey to EU member states, as Nato agreed to deploy ships to the Aegean Sea to ease the migrant crisis.”</p> <p>“With more than a million migrants having reached Europe in the last year and many more on the way, NATO stepped into the crisis for the first time on Thursday, saying it would deploy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GCHQ hacking does not breach human rights, security tribunal rules ● Excessive force used by Israeli security against Palestinians, UN human rights investigator says ● Indonesia: Flurry of Anti-Gay Statements by Officials ● Some 50,000 Syrian refugees heading toward Turkish border: Turkish minister ● Turkish president threatens to send millions of Syrian refugees to EU ● NATO Will Send Ships to Aegean Sea to Deter Human Trafficking
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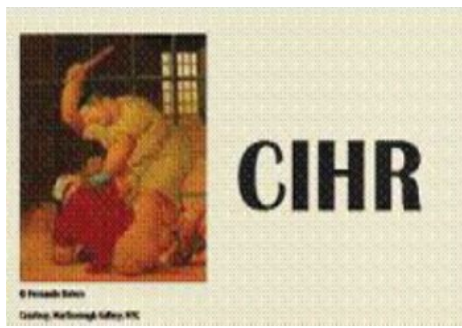
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	<p>ships to the Aegean Sea in an attempt to stop smugglers.”</p> <p>“We have agreed to implement a nationwide cessation of hostilities in one week’s time,” Mr. Kerry said early Friday morning, after all-day meetings. “That is ambitious.”</p> <p>The U.N. agency says humanitarian groups have not been able to deliver aid to Homs since October and are awaiting authorization to send in "lifesaving supplies."</p> <p>Syrian refugees are starting to experience severe mental health problems due to the longing experience of the refugee crisis.</p> <p>Update on Turkey’s plan on the refugee crises: Turkey refuses to open their borders to Syrian refugees.</p> <p>“United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today condemned the recent double suicide attack carried out by suspected Boko Haram elements in the Dikwa Camp in Borno State in restive northeastern Nigeria.”</p> <p>The budget proposal released by the Obama administration Tuesday seeks to roll back restrictions Congress has placed on foreign aid to Egypt’s military regime and the sale of crowd control weapons to “emerging democracies.”</p> <p>“World leaders must come together in 2016 to renew their commitments to humanity and unite to prevent and end</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>U.S. and Russia Announce Plan for Humanitarian Aid and a Cease-Fire in Syria</u> ● <u>The Latest: Kerry Calls for Genuine Negotiation on Syria</u> ● <u>Syrian refugees might be suffering from serious mental health issues, experts warn</u> ● <u>Turkey won't open border to Syrian refugees</u> ● <u>Ban deplors twin suicide bomb attack on camp for displaced persons in northeast Nigeria</u> ● <u>Obama Proposes Removing Human Rights Conditions on Aid to Egypt</u> ● <u>World Humanitarian Summit must be 'turning</u>
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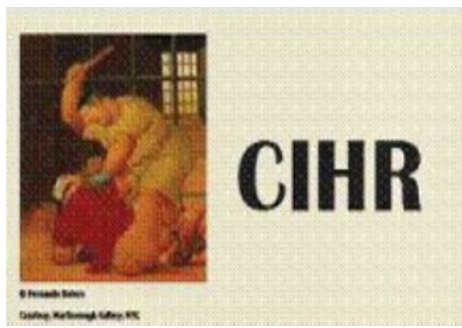
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	<p>crisis and reduce vulnerability, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today, telling UN Member States that the World Humanitarian Summit will provide an opportunity for “concrete steps towards ending the suffering experienced by billions of people today.”</p> <p>“In a report setting out his vision for the world humanitarian summit in May, Ban outlines five core responsibilities for the international community. As well as better political leadership, he demands protection for civilians, respect for humanitarian law, inclusive policies to make sure no one is left out, and more flexibility and joined-up thinking from the aid community.”</p> <p>“U.S. President Barack Obama came into office promising to work toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Over the past several years, the United States has made uneven progress toward that goal.”</p> <p>The UN Security Council has strongly condemned North Korea's launch of a long-range rocket.</p> <p>In recent weeks, a succession of U.S. and European officials have warned that military operations to stop the creeping advancement of the <u>Islamic State</u> in the shattered North African state of Libya are imminent.</p> <p>“SEVEN people have been arrested in Spain on suspicion of supplying weapons</p>	<p><u>point' in cooperation to tackle crises – UN chief</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Ban Ki-moon: 'Close the gap between the world that is and the world that should be'</u> ● <u>The Problem With NATO's Nukes</u> ● <u>UN Security Council vows new sanctions after N Korea's rocket launch</u> ● <u>The Next Front Against ISIS</u> ● <u>Seven people arrested in Spain for 'supplying</u>
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	<p>and bomb-making equipment to Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria and Iraq.”</p> <p>“Worried by the ugly trend of illicit arms proliferation along the borders of West African region, the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PRESCOM) has stressed the need to ensure that the review of the 1959 Firearms Act currently in the National Assembly is urgently passed into law.</p> <p>“The International Syria Support Group, a group of 17 countries and three organizations that is scheduled to meet on February 11, should make protecting civilians and ending indiscriminate attacks, including with cluster munitions, a key priority, Human Rights Watch said.”</p> <p>“These cases are not uncommon. Human trafficking, dangerous working conditions, unfair wages; these examples are not just a stain on the reputation of business. They are destroying lives and communities in all corners of the globe. It cannot be right in a world of increasing human progress -- whether in medicine, space exploration or renewable energy -- that so many people are denied the most basic human rights.”</p> <p>The Northern Territory intervention has failed to deliver substantial reform in any of the areas covered by the Close the Gap goals and has also failed to meet Australia’s international human rights</p>	<p><u>arms to ISIS' disguised as humanitarian aid</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Curbing Small Arms, Light Weapons Proliferation in Nigeria</u> ● <u>Russia/Syria: Daily Cluster Munition Attacks</u> ● <u>Universal Human Rights: The Foundations of the Global Goals</u> ● <u>Northern Territory intervention 'fails on human rights' and closing the gap</u>
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	<p>obligations, an independent report has found.</p> <p>Turkey had a moral and legal duty to help, Mogherini <u>said</u>, adding that EU had given Turkey funding to provide assistance and protection to Syrian refugees. On Thursday, EU approved 3 billion euros (\$3.35 billion) in aid to help Turkey cope with the influx of refugees.</p> <p>Turkish governmental leaders have called the international community “two-faced” for forcing them to open the borders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>EU Urges Turkey To Open Border For Syrian Refugees</u>• <u>Turkey lashes out at demands to open border to Syrian refugees</u>
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